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## [Book Review of] *Danny, The Murder of a Man with Down Syndrome*, by Patricia Smith and George Smith

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*Danny, The Murder of a Man with Down Syndrome* by Patricia Smith and George Smith, Lincoln, NE: Writers Showcase, iUniverse.com, Inc.

This is the true story of the murder of a man with Down Syndrome. The book should not be read merely as a recounting of the sordid killing of a retarded man, but rather should be read for its educational value as the depiction of the challenges faced by a mentally handicapped individual and his family. Woven into the narrative of this story are illustrative anecdotes which portray the birth of a child with special needs into a family with limited resources and limited capacity for understanding. The ability of a Down Syndrome child to win acceptance in the family through his unique gifts and his gentle nature is movingly portrayed. This is an object lesson in the capacity of such a child to earn the love and understanding of even unsophisticated parents. The positives are accentuated rather than the disappointments and the talents and individuality of Danny are a revelation to anyone inclined to accept the conventional wisdom. In contrast to the love of his parents and siblings, Danny endures the taunts and derision of the neighborhood bullies culminating in his tragic and violent death.

The book can also be read as an insight into the way handicapped individuals are disvalued in the legal system. Danny's murder is accepted as of little consequence to the society. Further, those public defenders who are assigned to the case trivialize the pursuit of justice for his murderers.

The authors are uniquely gifted in their ability to tell this story in its expanded context. Dr. George Smith is internationally known as a geneticist with a particular interest in Down Syndrome and his wife, Patricia, shares both his affection for and his dedication to improved understanding for children with Trisomy 21.

***Reviewed by:***  
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